

# DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY

## Department of Health and Hospitals Office of the Secretary Bureau of Health Services Financing

### Professional Services Program—Neonatology Services

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, has adopted the following emergency rule in the Medical Assistance Program as authorized by R.S. 46:153 and pursuant to Title XIX of the Social Security Act. This emergency rule is adopted in accordance with the Administrative Procedure Act, R.S. 49:950 et seq., and shall be in effect for the maximum period allowed under the Administrative Procedure Act or until adoption of the rule, whichever occurs first.

The Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing reimburses neonatology services according to established per diem rates for applicable Physicians' Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) codes. Effective July 7, 1995 and October 28, 1995 (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 21, Numbers 7 and 11) the bureau reduced the per diem rates for the following procedure codes to the following amounts:

- CPT code 99295 - \$323.90
- CPT code 99296 - \$190.20
- CPT code 99297 - \$150.10
- CPT code 99297-52 ("step-down" babies) - \$60.04.

This action was taken to avoid a budget deficit in the medical assistance programs. The department has now determined that it is necessary to make an adjustment in the above per diem rates in order to meet federal assurance requirements that there are a sufficient number of Medicaid providers for the delivery of these services. Therefore, the following emergency rule repeals the October 28, 1995 emergency rule and adopts revised per diem rates for specified neonatology procedure codes.

It is estimated that the implementation of this emergency rule will decrease the cost savings for neonatology services which was projected in July 1995 by approximately \$901,683 for the remainder of state fiscal year 1996 and approximately \$1,803,366 for next state fiscal year.

#### **Emergency Rule**

Effective for dates of service of January 21, 1996 and after, the Department of Health and Hospitals, Bureau of Health Services Financing, repeals the October 28, 1995 emergency rule (*Louisiana Register*, Volume 21, Number 11, page 1200) and adopts per diem rates for neonatology professional services to the amounts listed for the following procedure codes:

- CPT code 99295 - \$596.46
- CPT code 99296 - \$279.52
- CPT code 99297 - \$143.42
- CPT code 99297-52 ("step-down" babies) - \$57.37

Interested persons may submit written comments to the following address: Thomas D. Collins, Office of the Secretary, Bureau of Health Services Financing, Box 91030, Baton Rouge, LA 70821-9030. He is responsible for responding to inquiries regarding this emergency rule. A copy of this rule is available in the Medicaid parish offices for review by interested parties.

Bobby P. Jindal  
Secretary